

701—42.32 (422) School tuition organization tax credit. Effective for the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2006, but beginning before January 1, 2007, a school tuition organization tax credit is available which is equal to 65 percent of the amount of the voluntary cash contributions made by a taxpayer to a school tuition organization. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2007, the school tuition organization tax credit is available which is equal to 65 percent of the amount of voluntary cash or noncash contributions made by a taxpayer to a school tuition organization. There are numerous federal revenue regulations, rulings, court cases and other provisions relating to the determination of the value of a noncash contribution, and these are equally applicable to the determination of the amount of a school tuition organization tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2007.

42.32(1) Definitions. The following definitions are applicable to this rule:

“Certified enrollment” means the enrollment at schools served by school tuition organizations as of October 1, or the first Monday in October if October 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, of the appropriate year.

“Contribution” means a voluntary cash or noncash contribution to a school tuition organization that is not used for the direct benefit of any dependent of the taxpayer or any other student designated by the taxpayer.

“Eligible student” means a student residing in Iowa who is a member of a household whose total annual income during the calendar year prior to the school year in which the student receives a tuition grant from a school tuition organization does not exceed an amount equal to three times the most recently published federal poverty guidelines in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

“Qualified school” means a nonpublic elementary or secondary school in Iowa which is accredited under Iowa Code section 256.11, including a prekindergarten program for students who are five years of age by September 15 of the appropriate year, and adheres to the provisions of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Iowa Code chapter 216, and which is represented by only one school tuition organization.

“School tuition organization” means a charitable organization in Iowa that is exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that does all of the following:

1. Allocates at least 90 percent of its annual revenue in tuition grants for children to allow them to attend a qualified school of their parents’ choice.
2. Awards tuition grants only to children who reside in Iowa.
3. Provides tuition grants to students without limiting availability to students of only one school.
4. Provides tuition grants only to eligible students.
5. Prepares an annual financial statement certified by a public accounting firm.

“Tuition grant” means a grant to a student to cover all or part of the student’s tuition at a qualified school.

42.32(2) Initial registration. In order for contributions to a school tuition organization to qualify for the credit, the school tuition organization must initially register with the department. The following information must be provided with this initial registration:

- a. Verification from the Internal Revenue Service that Section 501(c)(3) status was granted and that the school tuition organization is exempt from federal income tax.
- b. A list of all qualified schools that the school tuition organization serves.
- c. The names and addresses of all the members of the board of directors of the school tuition organization.

Once the school tuition organization is registered with the department, it is not required to subsequently register unless there is a change in the qualified schools that the organization serves. The school tuition organization must notify the department in writing of any changes in the qualified schools it serves.

42.32(3) *Participation forms.* Each qualified school that is served by a school tuition organization must annually submit a participation form to the department by November 1. The following information must be provided with this participation form:

a. The certified enrollment of the qualified school as of October 1, or the first Monday in October if October 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

b. The name of the school tuition organization that represents the qualified school.

For the tax year beginning in the 2006 calendar year only, each qualified school served by a school tuition organization must submit to the department a participation form postmarked on or before August 1, 2006, which provides the certified enrollment as of the third Friday of September 2005, along with the name of the school tuition organization that represents the qualified school.

42.32(4) *Authorization to issue tax credit certificates.*

a. By December 1 of each year, the department will authorize school tuition organizations to issue tax credit certificates for the following tax year. For the tax year beginning in the 2006 calendar year only, the department, by September 1, 2006, will authorize school tuition organizations to issue tax credit certificates for the 2006 calendar year only. The total amount of tax credit certificates that may be authorized is \$2.5 million for the 2006 calendar year, \$5 million for the 2007 calendar year, and \$7.5 million for the 2008 and subsequent calendar years.

b. The amount of authorized tax credit certificates for each school tuition organization is determined by dividing the total amount of tax credit available by the total certified enrollment of all qualified participating schools. This result, which is the per-student tax credit, is then multiplied by the certified enrollment of each school tuition organization to determine the tax credit authorized to each school tuition organization.

EXAMPLE: For determining the authorized tax credits for the 2008 calendar year, if the certified enrollment of each qualified school in Iowa, as provided to the department by November 1, 2007, was 37,500, the per-student tax credit would be \$200 (\$7.5 million divided by 37,500). If a school tuition organization located in Scott County represents four qualified schools with a certified enrollment of 1,400 students, the school tuition organization would be authorized to issue \$280,000 (\$200 times 1,400) of tax credit certificates for the 2008 calendar year. The department would notify this school tuition organization by December 1, 2007, of the authorization to issue \$280,000 of tax credit certificates for the 2008 calendar year. This authorization would allow the school tuition organization to solicit contributions totaling \$430,769 (\$280,000 divided by 65%) during the 2008 calendar year which would be eligible for the tax credit.

42.32(5) *Issuance of tax credit certificates.* The school tuition organization shall issue tax credit certificates to each taxpayer who made a cash or noncash contribution to the school tuition organization. The tax credit certificate, which will be designed by the department, will contain the name, address and tax identification number of the taxpayer, the amount and date that the contribution was made, the amount of the credit, the tax year that the credit may be applied, the school tuition organization to which the contribution was made, and the tax credit certificate number.

42.32(6) *Claiming the tax credit.* The taxpayer must attach the tax credit certificate to the tax return for which the credit is claimed. Any credit in excess of the tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following five years or until used, whichever is the earlier.

a. The taxpayer may not claim an itemized deduction for charitable contributions for Iowa income tax purposes for the amount of the contribution made to the school tuition organization.

b. Married taxpayers who file separate returns or file separately on a combined return must allocate the school tuition organization tax credit to each spouse in the proportion that each spouse's respective

net income bears to the total combined net income. Nonresidents or part-year residents of Iowa must determine the school tuition organization tax credit in the ratio of their Iowa source net income to their total source net income. In addition, if nonresidents or part-year residents of Iowa are married and elect to file separate returns or to file separately on a combined return, the school tuition organization tax credit must be allocated between the spouses in the ratio of each spouse's Iowa source net income to the combined Iowa source net income.

42.32(7) Reporting requirements. Each school tuition organization that issues tax credit certificates must report to the department, postmarked by January 12 of each tax year, the following information:

a. The names and addresses of all the members of the board of directors of the school tuition organization, along with the name of the chairperson of the board.

b. The total number and dollar value of contributions received by the school tuition organization for the previous tax year.

c. The total number and dollar value of tax credit certificates issued by the school tuition organization for the previous tax year.

d. A list of each taxpayer who received a tax credit certificate for the previous tax year, including the amount of the contribution and the amount of tax credit issued to each taxpayer for the previous tax year. This list should also include the tax identification number of the taxpayer and the tax credit certificate number for each certificate.

e. The total number of children utilizing tuition grants for the school year in progress as of January 12, along with the total dollar value of the tuition grants.

f. The name and address of each qualified school represented by the school tuition organization at which tuition grants are being utilized for the school year in progress.

g. The number of tuition grant students and the total dollar value of tuition grants being utilized for the school year in progress at each qualified school served by the school tuition organization.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.11S.